

So stop trying to cancel the election based on the success of what has empowered more Americans to vote and be involved and be educated in our democracy. Let America vote, and let's get on with putting the securities in place that will help America get to the polling places in a secure fashion and get their ballots to the election officials in a timely manner.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

REMEMBERING JOHN LEWIS

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, on February 21, 1940, John Lewis was born in Troy, AL—a son of sharecroppers, born to be a person to bring good trouble to the Nation. He grew up on his family's farm and attended segregated public schools in Pike County, AL.

As a young boy, he was inspired by the activism that surrounded him—the Montgomery bus boycott and the works of a leader name Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He attended Fisk University, and he organized sit-in demonstrations in segregated lunch counters in Nashville, TN.

In 1961, he started participating in the Freedom Rides. He was just a young man. He would get on board a segregated bus, and he would dare to sit in the “Whites Only” area just to make a simple statement—that any person of any race should be able to sit anywhere they choose to sit in America, and it would be OK. He literally risked his life just riding on a bus in the wrong seat.

He became best known in 1963 when he helped to organize the March on Washington. He was part of what they called the Big Six in the civil rights movement. He was nationally recognized. We lose track of the fact that in 1963 he was one of the keynote speakers in the March on Washington. He stood in front of the Lincoln Memorial at 23 years old.

His focus on nonviolent protests, his focus on training people on how to speak out for what is just and for what is right, his focus on challenging people to rethink justice and to be able to see all people as being created in the image of God, all people equal, was a message that our Nation needed to hear and was a message he delivered over and over again. From his youngest days, he brought good trouble, as he said, to our Nation to awaken us.

He led 600 peaceful, orderly protesters across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL, on March 7, 1965. They were going to march from Selma to Montgomery to demonstrate the need for voting rights changes in the State of Alabama, but Alabama State Troopers met them there in what is known as Bloody Sunday. He and other peaceful protesters, simply marching, were attacked and beaten for doing what is just.

It was a telling thing to see John Lewis's body this past week cross that historic bridge one last time, and as he crossed, to have Alabama State Troop-

ers stand on the bridge and salute his body as it went by because John Lewis brought change to America.

John Lewis was elected to Congress in 1986 in Georgia's Fifth Congressional District, where he served faithfully. He was affectionately known as being the conscience of the Congress.

He was trained in religious teachings. He had a theological degree. He was often called “the reverend.” He never lost track of his faith. He treated people with respect. Even people he disagreed with and voted differently from, he would treat them with respect in a way that would honor God and honor them and honor his own family.

What is interesting, some of the statements John Lewis has made over the years always struck me. His quiet demeanor and his stern way of addressing justice always came back to his faith. A statement he made in 2004 really sticks with me. He said:

I'm deeply concerned that many people today fail to realize that the movement was built on deep-seated religious convictions, and the movement grew out of a sense of faith—faith in God and faith in one's fellow human beings.

Many of us who were participants in this movement saw our involvement as an extension of our faith.

He said:

We saw ourselves doing the work of the Almighty. Segregation and racial discrimination were not in keeping with our faith, and so we had to do something.

And he did.

Representative Lewis left a long legacy as a civil rights leader. He will not be forgotten in our Nation. The Big Six leaders made significant changes. I think about those changes he saw just in his lifetime and the changes that he, personally, was engaged in making in our Nation. Representative Lewis once made the statement: “When people tell me nothing has changed, I tell them, come walk in my shoes and I will show you change” because Representative Lewis, just in his lifetime, in the battles he fought, led, and changed, changed segregated schools in America; took away segregated water fountains in America; took away segregated movie theaters in America; took away segregated public transport in America; changed how people applied for jobs, got jobs, enjoyed their jobs; changed the opportunities for a person being able to live wherever they wanted to live in America; changed even how we vote in giving equal access for every American to be able to get to the ballot and vote. That is just in John Lewis's lifetime. He left a legacy of change.

His nonviolent protests, his training in leading people, stands in stark contrast to what I see some people who call it protests are doing right now. When I see what is happening right now in Portland every night and watching individuals gear up and literally attacking Federal law enforcement, throwing Molotov cocktails at them, pointing laser pointers at their eyes, shooting large-scale fireworks at

them, trying to set a building on fire—when I watch that and those individuals trying to say they are protesting for justice—they are not protesting for what is just. John Lewis was protesting for what is just.

John Lewis made the change in America, led a Nation and led a generation, even as a young 23-year-old man, to do the right thing in the right way. The change that he brought is a gift to the generations for millennia in our Nation.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

HEALS ACT

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is Thursday afternoon, and normally I come down to the Senate floor to talk about the Alaskan of the Week—what I call that person. It is one of my favorite things to do in the Senate. But I just witnessed something so remarkable and disturbing that I actually want to come down to the Senate floor and explain what just happened on the floor because I think a lot of people probably missed it, if they are watching at home, and maybe didn't understand it. There was a lot of discussion going on here. Let me just say that the Senate minority leader from New York just objected to extending the current level of unemployment insurance in the CARES Act—\$600 a week to help American workers who had been laid off due to the pandemic. He just objected to that and stopped legislation that was moving on the floor to extend unemployment insurance for another week. Let me repeat that: The Senate minority leader of the U.S. Senate, when we are moving in good faith, as we are discussing and negotiating bills here, one element of CARES that is going to expire at the end of this month, unemployment insurance in the CARES Act, the Senate minority leader just blocked that from happening. Who knows why, but there will be millions of Americans, in 2 days, who will lose that benefit, and the Senate minority leader just blocked it.

I sure hope our friends in the media write this story because that is exactly, exactly, exactly what happened.

Let me describe in a little bit more detail. As you would expect in a democracy, in the U.S. Senate, we have been debating, working on, and negotiating a new relief package due to the pandemic. In March, we passed unanimously in this body the CARES Act to try to bring relief to our fellow Americans whom we knew were going to be hurting from this pandemic. We didn't have a crystal ball on how long relief could last or should last for unemployment, for businesses, for small businesses, for families, for hospitals, for schools, or for fishermen. So we are now working on, as you expect in a democracy, what we view as the appropriate next level because this has extended longer than any of us thought, and the impacts are very significant. That is what we are doing here.